Attorney's Docket No. <u>034296-028</u> Application No.

10/537397 JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 JUN 2005

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1. (Original) Gypsum board with reduced sagging, obtained by hydraulic setting and hardening of a gypsum-based composition comprising, in percentages by weight with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate in the composition, from 0.003% to 0.45% of tartaric acid or tartaric acid salt(s) and from 0.05% to 0.95% of boric acid or boric acid salt(s).
- 2. (Original) Gypsum board according to claim 1, comprising, in percentages by weight with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate in the composition, from 0.005% to 0.05% of tartaric acid or tartaric acid salt(s) and from 0.2% to 0.8% of boric acid or boric acid salt (s).
- 3. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to claim 1 or 2, comprising, in percentages by weight with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate in the composition, from 0.02% to 0.03% of tartaric acid or tartaric acid salt(s) and from 0.4% to 0.7% of boric acid or boric acid salt (s).
- 4. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the tartaric acid comprises a mixture of L and D forms.

- 5. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the tartaric acid comprises a mixture of L, D and meso forms.
- 6. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to any one of claims 1 to 5 claim 1, also comprising a foaming agent.
- 7. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein the foaming agent is an alkali or alkaline-earth metal alkylsulphate, preferably an alkylsulphate of formula H(CH<sub>2</sub>) nOSO<sub>3</sub> M<sup>+</sup>, in which n is from 6 to 16 and the average number of carbon atoms in the alkylsulphate composition n<sub>m</sub> is comprised between 10 and 11, and M is a monovalent cation.
- 8. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to any one of claims 1 to 7 claim 1, also comprising an alkali or alkaline-earth metal phosphate.
- 9. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein it contains at the most 0.5% and preferably less than 0.2% by weight, of said alkali or alkaline-earth metal phosphate with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate.

- 10. (Currently Amended) Gypsum board according to claim 8 <del>or claim 9</del>, characterized in that wherein said alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal phosphate is sodium trimetaphosphate.
- 11. (Currently Amended) Process for manufacturing a gypsum board with reduced sagging according to any one of claims 1 to 10, in which claim 1, wherein tartaric acid, or one or more of its salts, and boric acid, or one or more of its salts, is introduced into the gypsum-based composition, before the hydraulic setting and hardening of the latter.
- 12 (Currently Amended) Process for manufacturing a gypsum board with reduced sagging according to any one of claims 1 to 10, in which claim 1, wherein tartaric acid, or one or more of its salts, and boric acid, or one or more of its salts, is introduced into the gypsum-based composition, after the hydraulic hardening of the latter, by soaking.
- 13. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 11 or 12, comprising the introduction into the gypsum-based composition of tartaric acid or tartaric acid salt(s), in a quantity greater than 0.001% by weight with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate contained in the gypsum-based composition.
- 14. (Currently Amended) Process according to any one of claims 11 to 13, characterized in that claim 11, wherein, in percentages by weight with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate in the composition, from 0.003% to

- 0.45% and preferably from 0.005% to 0.05% of tartaric acid or tartaric acid salt(s) are introduced into the gypsum-based composition.
- 15. (Currently Amended) Process according to any one of claims 11 to 14, characterized in that claim 11, wherein in percentages by weight with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate in the composition, up to 0.95% and preferably from 0.2% to 0.8% of boric acid or boric acid salt(s) are also introduced into the gypsum-based composition.
- 16. (Currently Amended) Process according to any one of claims 11 to 15, characterized in that claim 11, wherein the tartaric acid comprises a mixture of L and D forms.
- 17. (Currently Amended) Process according to any one of claims 11 to 15, characterized in that claim 11, wherein the tartaric acid comprises a mixture of L, D and meso forms,
- 18. (Currently Amended) Process according to any one of claims 11 to 17, characterized in that claim 11, wherein at least one foaming agent is also introduced into the gypsum-based composition.
- 19. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 18, characterized in that wherein the foaming agent comprises an alkali or alkaline-earth metal alkylsulphate, preferably an alkylsulphate of formula H(CH<sub>2</sub>) nOSO<sub>3</sub> M<sup>+</sup>, in which n is from 6 to 16

and the average number of carbon atoms in the alkylsulphate composition,  $n_m$  is comprised between 10 and 11, and M is a monovalent cation.

- 20. (Currently Amended) Process according to any one of claims 11 to 19, characterized in that claim 11, wherein at least one alkali or alkaline-earth metal phosphate is also introduced into the gypsum-based composition.
- 21. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 20, characterized in that wherein said alkali or alkaline-earth metal phosphate is introduced in a quantity of 0.5% maximum, and preferably less than 0.2% by weight, with respect to the weight of the calcium sulphate semihydrate.
- 22. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 20 or claim 11, characterized in that wherein the alkali or alkaline-earth metal phosphate is sodium trimetaphosphate.
- 23. (Original) Use of tartaric acid or tartaric acid salt(s) for the reduction of the sagging of a gypsum-based element.